

In a true democracy, candidates who get on the ballot for a presidential election would all have the right to debate their views on peace, war, healthcare and education, to name a few. In the United States, the debates are hosted by the Commission on Presidential Debates, which is controlled by the Republican and Democratic parties. Independent parties (also known as third parties) such as the Green party, the American Independence party, and Socialist parties, aren't as

well known throughout the nation as the Democrats and Republicans.

Without access to televised debates, it's almost impossible to win a presidential election. Paying for advertising is another way to be heard. According to the *Washington Post*, from November 2011 to September 2012 the Republican and Democratic parties spent \$450 million on television advertisements. Independent parties have nowhere close to that amount of money to spend on advertising.

The United States is considered a democracy even though people are only hearing from the Republican and Democratic parties. In a true democracy, each candidate would have an equal opportunity to publicize how they feel about any issue, and have the same chance of becoming president as anyone else.

Even though a voter might support an independent candidate's views, they may not vote for the party they support because they think it has almost no chance of winning.

How much Super PAC money was spent on attacking an opposing candidate on TV?

Restore Our Future supports **Mitt Romney** and spent **\$82,491,530** attacking President Obama.

Priorities USA supports **President Obama** and spent **\$27,527,965** attacking Mitt Romney.

"PAC" stands for "political action committee." Learn more at indykids.org.

When are the debates?

Debate 1: Wednesday, October 3 at 9:00-10:30pm Eastern Time

Jim Lehrer (host of NewsHour on PBS) will moderate a discussion on domestic policy between President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

Debate 2: Thursday, October 11 at 9:00-10:30pm Eastern Time

Martha Raddatz (ABC news chief foreign correspondent) will moderate a discussion on foreign and domestic policy between Vice President Joe Biden and Paul Ryan.

Debate 3: Tuesday, October 16 at 9:00-10:30pm Eastern Time

Candy Crowley (CNN chief political correspondent) will moderate a town hall format discussion on foreign and domestic policy between President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. A town hall format means the citizens in attendance will ask the candidates questions.

Debate 4: Tuesday, October 22 at 9:00-10:30pm Eastern Time

Bob Schieffer (host of Face the Nation on CBS) will moderate a discussion on foreign and domestic policy between President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.



Meet... Anton from Spain

Name: Anton Gutierrez Martin

Age: 10

Language Spoken: Spanish and a little bit of English

Parents' Work: Mom works on TV and Dad is a Carpenter

Favorite Food: Spaghetti and Clams

Favorite Subject: Science

Hobbies: Play with cousin Alejo



Spain at a Glance

Capital City: Madrid

Government: Constitutional Monarchy, with Mariano Rajoy as current president

Geography: Southwest Europe, bordering the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean

Population: 47,042,984

Languages Spoken: Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Basque

Religion: Roman Catholic

History: Throughout history, Spain has been controlled by various forces and has had various governments. It started out as a Monarchy, and later became a dictatorship under General Francisco Franco following the Spanish Civil war. After Franco died, Spain began making various changes to its government in preparation for changing it from a dictatorship to a democracy. Today the Spanish people have a constitution and are governed by a President, a Vice President and a cabinet elected by the President.

Learn a little SPANISH

Comó se llama? What is your name?

Cuántos años tienes? How old are you?

Grande Big

Pequeño Small

Me llamo... My name is...

Profile and vocabulary courtesy of Irati Ergo Diez, age 10 and C.I.A. World Factbook

61.6%

That's the percentage of eligible voters who actually voted in the 2008 U.S. presidential election.

Source: United States Election Project, George Mason University

nation&world

History of Black America's Voting Rights

By MOKGWETSI SIZWE CHAPMAN, age 14

Mississippi in the 1960s was a tough time and place for African Americans. African Americans were being murdered, lynched and terrorized to prevent them from voting, even though the 15th Amendment, passed almost 100 years earlier, allowed black males to vote.



In the fall of 1963, the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) wanted to prove that if blacks were not harassed, they would come out in large numbers to vote. They held a mock election called the 1963 Freedom Vote and 80,000 black citizens went through the process of registering to vote, learning about the candidates and casting a ballot. But still, African Americans were intimidated and met with violence.

The 1964 Freedom Summer project brought more than 1,000 northern students, professionals and volunteers of different ethnic backgrounds, trained in Oxford,

Ohio, to help with voter registration, freedom schools and other social programs in Mississippi. The intimidation continued. COFO civil rights and anti-racism activists Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner were jailed by the police and killed by the Ku Klux Klan while they were on their way to investigate the burning of a black church.

Today, 251,000 African Americans living in Mississippi are not registered to vote, according to Mr. Derrick Johnson, president of the Mississippi chapter of the NAACP. Mr. Johnson stresses how important it is for kids to think critically and evaluate what's going on in public



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

A voting rights demonstration in McComb, Mississippi in 1962. McComb was the site of violent repression of civil rights. Many churches and houses were bombed. Many people died or were arrested..

offices in their towns and who's serving so that they will be prepared to actively participate by the time they are old enough to vote.

For more information on COFO, please visit www.indykids.org.

To learn more about the history of voting rights in the U.S., check out the timeline on page 8 of this paper!

How the Right to Vote is Being Taken Away

By MARIAH WILSON, age 13



The right to vote is being taken away by new laws that make it more difficult, requiring photo identification from the government in order to vote. Black, Latino and elderly voters are most affected, as these voters are less likely to have photo ID. At least 11 states have passed such laws. People in favor of the new laws, usually Republicans, say they are needed so that people who aren't allowed to vote, such as non-citizens, won't try to vote. They say election fraud is a threat to our electoral system, even though there is little to no evidence of such fraud ever happening.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University, up to 11 percent of eligible voters don't have photo ID. Now many of them can be turned away from the voting booth. That could affect the outcome of a close election.

Another problem is that forty-six states have laws



FLICKR/SOLAMU

A voting machine from the 2008 U.S. presidential election; millions of Americans vote in the presidential elections, but more and more people are being denied their right.

that allow people to challenge whether a person is allowed to vote, either on or before Election Day. Challengers often target African Americans, Latinos, and students, who are also affected when voter registration drives are restricted, which has happened in states like Florida.

indykids!

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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations and grants.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

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New York Collective of Radical Educators: www.nycore.org
New York City Indymedia: www.nyc.indymedia.org
Teachers Unite: www.teachersunite.net
AfricaWrites: www.africawrites.com
People's Production House: www.peoplesproductionhouse.org
New York Taxi Workers Alliance: www.nytaxi.org
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals: www.peta.org

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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• John and Martha Wolf

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• Wendy Carolyn Wolf

WANT TO RECEIVE INDYKIDS BY MAIL? WANT TO DONATE?
It's easy. Just log onto indykids.org and click the "Donate" button. Your money will help keep IndyKids strong.

Go to indykids.org to see the complete list of donors.

Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| a) Syria ____ | e) Japan ____ |
| b) Spain ____ | f) Greece ____ |
| c) India ____ | g) Arctic Sea ____ |
| d) Mississippi ____ | h) South Africa ____ |



The European Debt Crisis: What Happened?

By NANCY RYERSON

A major European debt crisis threatens the entire region's stability. Countries have cut back government benefits like retirement plans to try and save money, and some countries have needed the rest of the countries in the European Union (EU) to save their banks.

Twenty-seven countries in Europe make up the EU, and 17 of those countries share the same currency, called the euro. That means if one country is having economic troubles, the other countries that share the same currency will also have problems.

The first country to experience economic troubles was Greece. Some of the country's past leaders had lied about the amount of money Greece owed to other countries, leading to government over-spending. Once the current leader took over, the country owed more money than it could pay for.

Another country greatly impacted by the economic crisis was Spain. At first, the Spanish economy was flourishing (doing great). Housing prices went up because people could afford to pay for them. But then housing prices grew too high and the "bubble" popped, leaving people with homes they could not pay for. Homeowners also could not pay back banks that lent them money, eventually leading to a bank



The European debt crisis threatens the value of the euro.

bailout in June 2012.

Experts worry that the debt crisis will spread to even more European countries. Wealthy countries, such as Germany, are working to make sure the EU can stay together and sustain its economy in the long run, and countries like Greece hope to be able to recover soon. "We are a proud country. We don't want to rely on borrowed money," said Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras. "We want to stand on our own two feet."



IRATI EGORHO DIEZ, age 10, explains the European economic crisis. Check out the podcast online.

Syria: Peaceful Protests Turned into Civil War

By JEAN-JACQUES CHARLES

More than one million children are caught in the instability of the civil war that started in the spring of 2011 when teenagers painted revolutionary slogans on their school's walls. The uprising began peacefully as part of the region-wide Arab Spring of protests against oppressive governments, but turned violent in March 2011 when the government sent the military to stop the demonstrators by shooting at them.

Since then, the government of President Bashar al-Assad and the rebels (the Free Syrian Army or FSA) have been fighting each other throughout the country. The United Nations Human Rights Council reported that many children have been victims of war-related violence that has displaced more than 250,000 people.



Three Syrian children listen to their teacher at a refugee camp in the neighboring country, Lebanon. The civil war in Syria has left up to three million people in need of food assistance, according to the United Nations and the Syrian government.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Mr. Assad's security forces arrested and tortured teenagers in March 2011 for painting anti-government slogans on their school's walls. To support the teenagers, Syrian people marched in the streets to protest the brutality, but authorities fired at them and killed four people. "People then began demanding the overthrow of Mr. Assad," according to the BBC.
- Syria is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.
- Natural resources in Syria include petroleum, phosphates, chrome and manganese ores and asphalt.
- Obama approved \$12 million dollars in aid to support the rebels in Syria.

newsbriefs

PHOTO COURTESY OF 4OCIMA



Who Turned Out the Lights?

By ELIYA AHMAD, age 11
More than 650

million people, mostly in northern India, suffered from two massive power outages on August 13 and 14. People were stuck without electricity in stores, streets, elevators and trains. Two hundred miners were trapped below ground. The cause of the blackout isn't entirely clear but old equipment, huge demand, fuel shortages, and light summer rains that lowered production of hydropower are thought to have contributed to the outage.

Private Prisons and Undocumented Immigrants

The detention of illegal immigrants has led to an increase in for-profit private prisons. According to the *Huffington Post*, there are more than 23,000 undocumented immigrants being held in private prisons in the United States. Also, the Federal Bureau of Prisons now pays \$5.1 billion to private prisons versus the \$760 million they paid more than a decade ago. President Obama is calling for a decrease in the amount of money given to these private prisons and has asked the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency to look into alternatives to locking up illegal immigrants.

South African Miners Shot by Police

FLICKR/STARK23X

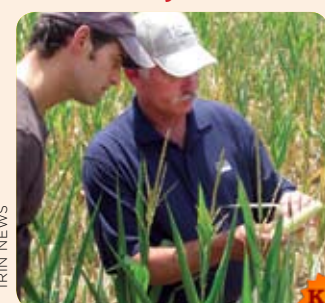


A platinum wedding ring.

On August 21, police in South Africa shot and killed 44 platinum mine workers who protested for better wages. Platinum is a natural mineral used in jewelry and in catalytic converters for cars. Eighty percent of the world's platinum supply is in South Africa. Forty percent of South African workers live on less than \$3 a day.

No Rain, No Corn

IRIN NEWS



By ELIYA AHMAD, age 11

In the Midwest, the summer heat is turning into a problem. A serious drought (the worst in nearly 50 years), caused by excessive heat and sparse rainfalls, is currently affecting 88% of the corn crop. Corn is hidden in almost all of the food we eat, since it is in animal feed and most processed foods, so a scarcity of corn could mean a rise in food prices.



Ballot for 2012 U.S. Presidential Election

☐ **Barack Obama**
Democratic Party

☐ **Mitt Romney**
Republican Party

☐ **Jill Stein**
Green Party

☐ **Gary Johnson**
Libertarian Party

☐ **Virgil Goode**
Constitution Party

☐ **Peta Lindsay**
Party for Socialism
and Liberation

☐ **Or write in your
own choice:**

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND in the 2012 U.S. Presidential Election



ECONOMY

Unemployment remains high: 8.3 percent of Americans don't have jobs. Half of American households hold only 1 percent of the country's wealth.



EDUCATION

More than 4,500 public schools shut down since 2007. Today, students still face segregation and racism with the school system. The country's high school graduation rate is 75 percent and the average college graduate finishes school with more than \$20,000 in debt.



ENVIRONMENT

Humans burning fossil fuel for energy has released chemicals into the atmosphere that have warmed the planet, which has contributed to extreme weather patterns across the world, from droughts to hurricanes.



HEALTH CARE

Since 2010, 1.3 million people received health coverage due to government health insurance programs such as Medicare and Medicaid and the passage of the Affordable Care Act. However, there are still 7.9 million children in the United States who do not have health insurance.



IMMIGRATION

There are approximately 11.5 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. Most left their home country because of poverty. Many undocumented immigrants take low-paying jobs and live in fear of being deported.



WARS

In 2011, \$718 billion, or 20 percent, of the federal budget was spent on the military and defense. Despite 2008 campaign promises to "pull out," there is still a large U.S. military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan.

CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

Amount Raised

Numbers are approximate as of July 31, 2012, and do not include funds raised by affiliated organizations such as PACs. Source: Federal Election Commission Summary Reports 2011-2012 Cycle



Barack Obama
Democratic Party

Create new jobs and decrease the taxes of people who work by asking the wealthy to pay more in taxes.

Make U.S. the top in math and science, and fund early childhood education for all. Will also add 25,000 teachers to high-need areas. The federal government will run and provide loans as part of the federal college student loan program.

Rejects drilling for oil in some environments, and takes the prevention of global warming seriously in his policies.

Increase competition between insurance companies and drug companies; give people the option to buy affordable healthcare. In 2010, President Obama passed the Affordable Health Care Act, which aims to make health care easier for more people to get.

As of June 2012, said he would no longer seek the deportation of undocumented immigrants, and would allow them to seek work permits.

Decreased U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, while spending about \$110 Billion on Afghanistan in 2011.

\$356,538,083



Mitt Romney
Republican Party

Cut the rate of taxation across-the-board; eliminate the inheritance tax and would keep taxes most big businesses pay the same as they are now.

Says teachers' unions hinder student achievement. Supports Bush's No Child Left Behind Act, as well as English immersion and abstinence education.

Believes in a market approach to solving environmental problems and wants to explore domestic oil drilling in places such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

In favor of a free-market-based system. Believes in individual responsibility for healthcare.

Encourage legal immigration, but secure borders to end illegal immigration.

Will not allow Iran to have nuclear weapons, and believes the U.S. must have a military option to prevent that. Wants to expand military spending.

\$196,958,553



Jill Stein
Green Party

Guarantee the right to a job at a living wage for every American willing and able to work. Supports changing the financial industry so it serves people and communities.

Wants free college education for all, as she believes the current system traps people in debt; believes decisions concerning education should be at a more grassroots level than currently.

Believes a clean environment is a health issue. As part of her far-ranging environmental policies, she promotes green local economies, sustainable agriculture and clean power.

Wants Medicare for all (single payer), not just for the elderly and disabled. Stein criticized large CEO salaries in the healthcare industry, and that 30% of healthcare costs are spent on CEO salaries and ads.

Will provide a legal path to citizenship for immigrant residents. She also feels undocumented immigrants are a critical component of the economy.

Believes Iran doesn't threaten our security. She says that we can change the country if we change to green jobs and would not need to make war over oil.

\$306,671



Gary Johnson
Libertarian Party

Does not believe the federal government should spend any money on stimulus or transportation. Believes businesses should not be taxed, as that would help them create jobs.

End federal involvement in education. Use more of the money obtained through funding for programming.

Believes each state should have its own policy on clean water; would enforce clean air policies but would not provide financial rewards for lower-emission research and technology.

Cut Medicare/Medicaid spending by 43%. Let states decide healthcare on a state-by-state basis.

Encourage legal immigration, but secure borders to end illegal immigration.

Thinks that the U.S. wasted \$4 trillion dollars on the illegal Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

\$180,000



Virgil Goode
Constitution Party

Budget should be balanced now by cutting agency funding. Against bank bailouts, as well as the stimulus bill for jobs and energy.

Allow school prayer on a voluntary basis. Close down the Federal Department of Education. Provide vouchers to help families pay for public school.

While in Congress, he voted to fund Amtrak improvements and operation through 2013; has generally sided with corporations on environmental issues.

Wants to leave Medicare to the states. Wants employers to encourage employees to put money into their employee medical savings accounts. Opposes more federal funding on healthcare.

Illegal immigrants shouldn't be allowed citizenship. Stop illegal immigration and what he calls "terrorism" from Mexico. End diversity visas for Muslims.

Believes that, because the U.S. spends too much money, we must come home from Afghanistan and reduce our spending around the world.

\$184,852



Peta Lindsay
Party for Socialism
and Liberation

Supports making a job a Constitutional right; will defend unions and the right to organize. Favors taking over the banks and ending our capitalist system.

Make education free-cancel all student debt.

Favors a central economic plan to significantly cut greenhouse gases, clean up the environment and build a massive renewable energy network. Believes our for-profit economic system creates incentives to pollute and that it must be changed.

Create a completely free and public health care system.

Would abolish all anti-immigrant laws, stop the raids and deportations and dismantle the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

Believes war is used to advance the interests of the "biggest banks and corporations." Favors ending the blockade on Cuba and ending U.S. foreign aid to Israel.

\$11,955

ALL PHOTOS: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Radiated Rice in Japan



A rice field in Sakura, Japan.

KID

By KYLIE FREYMAN, age 9

When the 2011 earthquake hit Fukushima, Japan, it set off a nuclear power plant explosion, which spread radiation and toxic materials into the environment. Farms, nature, animals, and people were poisoned. Just 12 months after the nuclear accident, 57,900 more deaths were recorded, according to the *Huffington Post*. The Japanese government banned rice from the Fukushima region because of irradiation.

First Man to Walk on Moon Dies



NASA

Astronaut Neil Alden Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, died of heart failure on August 25, 2012. Armstrong led NASA's Apollo 11 mission that landed on the moon on July 20, 1969. "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Armstrong famously said. He was born in Wapakoneta, a small town in Ohio on August 5, 1930.

Melting Sea Ice



NASA, GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

On July 20, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Healy steamed south in the Arctic Ocean toward the edge of the sea ice.

The area of sea ice naturally grows and shrinks with the seasons. In September, 2007, scientists observed the lowest Arctic ice area ever recorded since ice monitoring with satellites began in 1979. On August 26, 2012, Arctic ice area dipped below the 2007 record. Since minimum area is in September, melting will shrink the remaining ice for several more weeks. Climate scientists think this new record and timing may signal an important shift in long-term Arctic climate.

14.8 million

That's the number of wage and salary workers who belong to a union.
Source: www.bls.gov

culture&activism

Healthy Fifth Graders? Depends on Parents' Income and Education

By NICOLETTE TUCKER

One in three black and Latino children were obese compared to one in six white children in a new study from the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The study, the largest conducted on fifth grade students, also found that black and Latino children were less likely to exercise and were more likely to report worse overall health compared with their white peers.

For the study, researchers chose public schools in metropolitan cities such as Birmingham, Houston and Los Angeles. They interviewed children and their parents in order to assess health factors like exercise, obesity, and bike helmet use.

The study revealed that a child's school as well as their parents' education and income play a pivotal role in their health. Children whose parents have a higher education and higher income were more likely to be healthier no matter their ethnicity.

Among adults, studies have found that blacks are 51 percent more likely to be obese and Latinos are 21

percent more likely to be obese than whites. Overall, one in three Americans are overweight or obese. First Lady Michelle Obama has made it her personal mission to help lower these numbers, especially among children. In 2011, she launched the "Let's Move" campaign, an initiative dedicated to solving the challenge of childhood obesity. The First Lady has also worked to help end the health disparities among ethnicities and economic statuses.

Dr. Mark Schuster, who lead the *New England Journal of Medicine* study, believes that programs like Let's Move and other campaigns that deal with children's health early are the best ways to combat childhood obesity and narrow the health gap between upper and lower income families.

"Finding disparities this young suggests that we have to start young to try to address them," Schuster told the *LA Times*.

According to a recent study, students from low income families are less likely to exercise.



FLICKR/HEADPHOTOS

America's Fourth Graders Can't Read

By NIKKI SAINT BAUTISTA

Sixty-seven percent of all U.S. fourth graders cannot read at grade level, according to a new study from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In other words, 67 percent of all U.S. fourth graders cannot read books such as *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White or *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl.

If fourth graders cannot read by the time they are in fourth grade, they will be more likely to drop out of high school. If students don't complete high school, they most likely will not go to college or they might drop out. Every student who does not graduate from high school "costs our society an estimated \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes and productivity," according to the research. The study is based on a National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading test given in 2009.

The NAEP says "When reading text appropriate at fourth grade, [students] should be able to extend the ideas in the text by making inferences; drawing conclusions, and making connections to their own experiences. The connection between the text and what the student infers should be clear."

Reading levels improve very little by the time students enter eighth grade or high school. In fact, "only 32 percent of eighth graders and 38 percent of twelfth graders are at or above grade level," according to the website Students First.



WOODLEYWONDERWORKS

An elementary school kid reads "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" to his mother.

Among those with the worst reading levels are low-income, Black, Latino and Native American students, compared with moderate and high-income students, or low-income white or Asian/Pacific Islander students.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STUDY:

Factors that affect reading levels:

1. Children who do not read or learn during the summer.
2. Children are distracted by hunger, food insecurity and housing insecurity.
3. Children who have too many problems at home become too stressed.

Solutions:

1. Universal access to child care, and after-school and summer programs.
2. Universal access to high-quality, affordable, comprehensive health care.
3. Help low-income parents and families support their children, so that they will continue going to school and stay active during the summer.

"If I Were President"

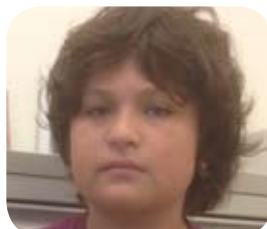
With the upcoming presidential election, each candidate is talking about what they would do if elected President. *IndyKids* Kid Reporter Kylie Freyman went out and asked kids "What would you do if you were President?"

By KYLIE FREYMAN, age 9



I would show good leadership and never break my promises.

Shannon, age 9



I would try to end war. I would go to the UN, to talk to the world leaders and do my best to convince them that we are not very different, in an effort to end war.

Sebastian, age 11



I would protect animals like endangered species like tigers and pandas.

Elijah, age 13



I would give the money to people who don't have any. Also, I would tell people to not be mean to others. It doesn't matter who you are. You should not be rude.

Tatiana, age 8



I would not solve problems by fighting. I would make speeches to say no fighting, nothing bad, and no shooting. Only peace and love.

Ziyad, age 10

Someday, you could be a **Union Organizer**, just like **Daniel Ray**

By INDYKIDS STAFF

What do you do?
I organize nurses into a union, and we build power in the workplace. New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) which represents 40,000 members.

What is organizing?

Organizing, basically, is workers talking to workers for issues at work that affect them. They try to fix issues at their workplace.

What are the conditions of the people you advocate for?

I organize nurses throughout the hospitals in NYC. Most of the people I organize are women and/or people of color, for example, Filipina and Caribbean [women]. The nurses are often responsible for more patients than they can handle. We make sure nurses are safe at work and that the patients get the quality of care and one-to-one attention that they deserve.

What are their chief complaints?

They work in unsafe environments. They work around chemicals that are dangerous to their health. Nurses in the emergency room sometimes experience physical harm. They don't have the protection they need from their bosses to be safe. Hospitals nowadays are often privately run and for-profit, and the companies (equity firms) that buy hospitals fire workers, engage in anti-union attacks, and try to intimidate workers. Women are not taken seriously. Most managers are men and don't treat them with respect.

What advice would you have for young people?

Never give up. Continue to fight. You're going to win.

What made you want to organize nurses?

I had a traumatic brain injury as a child, and my brother had cancer as a baby. I realized that I wanted to take care of healthcare workers as my career.



DANIEL RAY

Someday you could be an organizer like Daniel Ray, age 26.

letters

Fourth grade students at Public School 152 in Queens, New York wrote letters in response to "Trees for Oil: Pipeline Grows from Canada to U.S." (May/June 2012 issue).

You can make jobs with wind power. There is no need to take down millions of trees for some oil. With lots of pollution, and less trees, we can't survive. If you can't survive, how will you do your job? Which would you have, jobs or life?

Sincerely,
Subha

I think the pipeline should not be built. First of all, in order to build the pipeline, almost ten million acres of Canada's forests need to be destroyed. Then if somehow the pipeline leaks water, more than two million people's water will be polluted. It can also cause climate change. I strongly believe it will do more harm than help.

Sincerely,
Tenzing

I think the pipeline should not be built because the oil will be dangerous to the environment, animals or water. If people drink that water, it will not be good.

Kindly,
Evelyn

I think the White House shouldn't build the Keystone XL pipeline. They would destroy too many forests, where animals live. It will pollute our water if the pipeline leaks.

Sincerely,
Jonathan

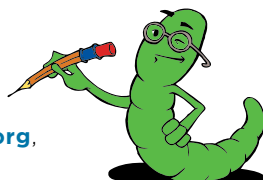
I think that the pipeline should not be built because it will put people's health at risk. It will also make less oxygen, because they will cut 10 million acres of trees! The pipeline will put too much risk on the environment!

Love,
Macaiah



GARY MARTIN

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Women garment workers voting in 1913.

Who Got the Right to Vote When? Check Out This Timeline

By MOKGWETSI SIZWE CHAPMAN, age 14



1790: Only white men are considered citizens and allowed to vote.

1863: President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all enslaved Africans in the northern region of the United States will be free.

1867: Congress passes the Reconstruction Act, which recognizes African Americans as citizens and grants African American men the right to vote.

1870: The 15th Amendment guarantees African American males the right to vote.

1876: In *United States v. Reese*, the U.S. Supreme Court held that certain restrictions to voting, like the poll tax, were constitutional, and opened the door to further disenfranchisement.

1890-1920: Known as the Progressive Era, women gradually gained the right to vote over the course of 30 years.

1924: Native Americans are granted citizenship, but not all Native Americans gained the right to vote until 1956.

1952: Asians who moved to the United States from a different country can become citizens.

1965: President Johnson signs a very strict voting rights bill outlawing the literacy test as a requirement to vote.

1975: President Gerald Ford signs a bill that extends voting rights to citizens who speak languages other than English.

2008: Barack Obama gets elected first African American president.

2011: Mississippi, along with other states passes a law requiring voters to present a "government-issued photo identification," in order to cast a ballot. However, the law might not yet be effective for the November 2012 presidential election.

Kids protest Hershey's use of child labor to make their chocolate products.



OCTAVIA DAVIS

Participate in a Democracy

By MOKGWETSI SIZWE CHAPMAN, age 14



Can't vote? There are other ways kids can let their voices be heard and fight for their needs.

1. Boycott

A boycott is when many people decide to not buy something or to not participate in something so that a change can be made. For example, in 2010 Arizona passed an anti-immigration law that would arrest any non-citizen, mostly Latino, who was not carrying identification papers. More than quarter of Major League Baseball players are Latino and when the All-Star game was held in Arizona, people boycotted by not watching it.

2. Rally or demonstration

A rally gathers around speakers to talk about an issue. A demonstration expresses people's opposition to an injustice by protesting in the streets, marching or sitting down in a space, refusing to move. For example, when kids learned that Hershey's Chocolate used child labor to make their goods, kids protested on the streets to raise awareness of Hershey's poor working conditions.

3. Know your elected officials

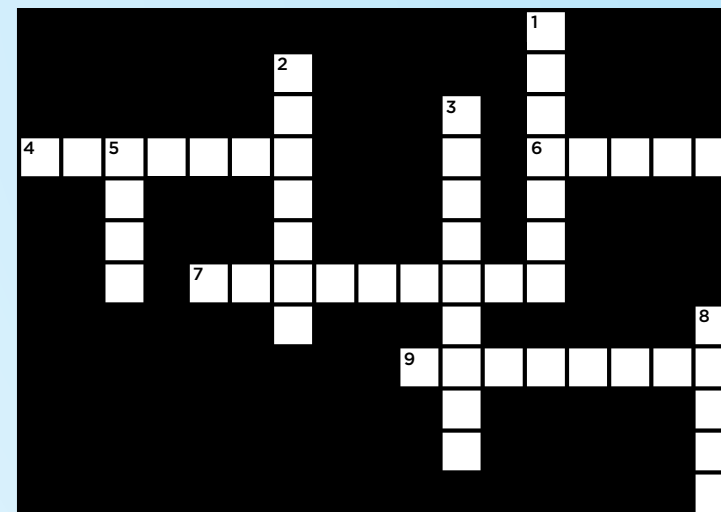
Even if some of you might not be of age to vote, you can start preparing by learning the different public office positions and the people who are serving in them now. For example, find out about local issues and explore what elected officials are doing to address them.

4. Hold your own debates

It doesn't have to be a huge debate club. It could be just you and a couple of friends or you could be hanging out and you just bring it up. Everybody enjoys a friendly debate. It gets the blood pumping!

5. Petition

Sign a petition for better produce in your local grocery store, write the Mayor of your city, or if you feel the need to do so sign a petition at your school. Just be creative!



ACROSS

- 4. Having too much body fat
- 6. A group of workers fighting for their rights
- 7. Neil Armstrong was one
- 9. Ability to read, write and think critically about the written word

(answers on bottom of page 3)

DOWN

- 1. Sparse rainfalls
- 2. Not buying something or not participating in something so that a change can be made
- 3. Energy released during a nuclear power plant explosion in Japan
- 5. Currency in the European Union
- 8. Bordered by the Mediterranean Sea, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon

By KYLIE FREYMAN, age 9



IndyKids is turning 7! Help us raise \$7,000 by November 7th so we can thrive.

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